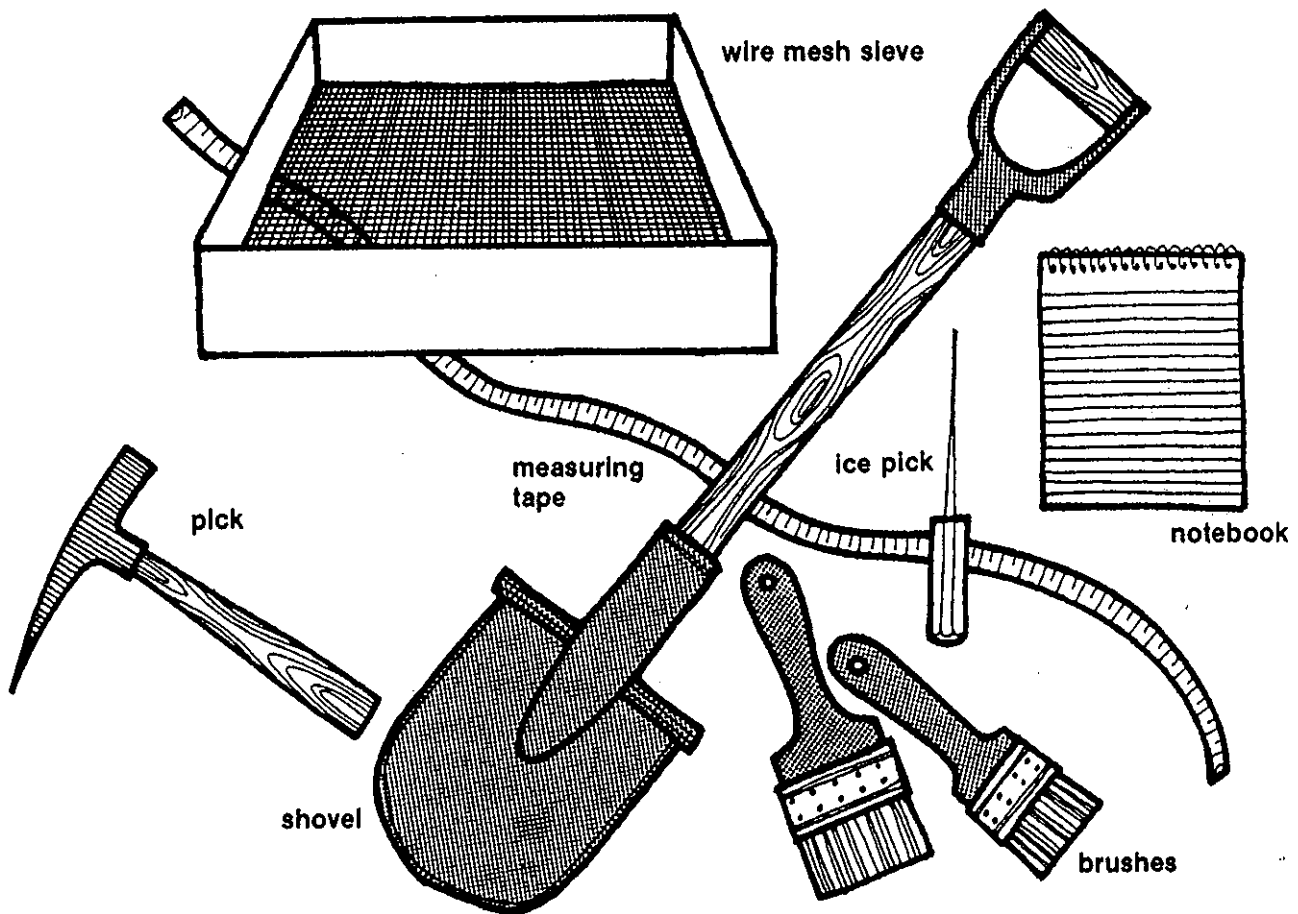


Tools Used by Archeologists

Archeologists at a dig site must be patient and careful workers so that fragile and valuable objects will not be damaged. Which tools they use depends on the type of job to be done. Usually, they begin digging with a large tool, such as a shovel or a pick. When they come to an artifact, they switch to a finer tool, such as an ice pick or even a brush.

Brushes are used to clear away loosened dirt around the artifact. The soil that is loosened must be run through a wire mesh sieve to find tiny objects that may have been missed. Every object, no matter how small or apparently insignificant, is recorded and cataloged in a notebook of some sort. In this way, archeologists can scientifically reconstruct a culture.



What tools do you think are most important for archeologists to have? Imagine you are creating the perfect "dig kit" for archeologists and design an advertisement to print in an archaeology magazine. Remember, archeologists sometimes have to carry their gear miles into a site, so you should only include those items you feel an archeologist should never be without.

Your advertisement should be on a blank piece of white paper and may be in color or black and white. It should demonstrate your understanding of what tools are necessary to complete a scientific archeological dig. If you are feeling especially creative, you may invent a new tool for archeologists, but it must be clear how the tool is to be used and how it would help on the dig.